

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

March 24, 1977

Mr. Gaspar Fabbriante, Principal
Stuyvesant High School
345 East 15th St.
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Mr. Fabbriante,

I was most interested to receive the last issue of the Stuyvesant Alumni Spectator and to read that there will be an effort to produce a history of the high school for the occasion of its 75th anniversary in 1979. This moved me to write to you in hopes that you might yourself have some information on the background of the school.

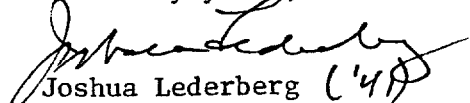
This question has come up in the course of some autobiographical-science-history analysis in which I have been recently engaged. As I hardly need tell you, and you will have heard thousands of times before from other graduates, the special qualities of Stuyvesant were of the utmost importance in my own intellectual development. But I have been trying to find some documentation on the policy background by which Stuyvesant High School was first established as a way of meeting the needs of academically qualified and scientifically interested students in New York City. I'm equally interested in finding sources that could describe how this purpose was assessed and evaluated through the years and the policy struggles that undoubtedly surrounded these contentions. I realize that this has become particularly problematical during the last decade but my own interests are focused on the time of my own experience with the school in the late 1930's.

I have found the enclosed very brief reference to Dr. John L. Tildsley, but have so far been able to get no other substantial information on this question. Naturally I felt that you might have been particularly sensitive to these same questions in your role as principal.

I might just also mention a book that has just recently appeared by Thomas Kessner, "The Golden Door: Italian and Jewish Immigrant Mobility in New York City 1880-1915." This deals in a very general way with the role of the school system and other factors in New York City in a somewhat earlier period. I am still waiting to get another title, by Steven Sternberg, "The Academic Melting Pot" which hopefully may deal with some related questions.

So if you are aware of any published reports or writings that would help to document the policy and sociological background of the justification for and the role of Stuyvesant High School in the life of New York City, I would be most grateful to you.

Sincerely yours,


Joshua Lederberg (147)
Professor of Genetics